**Wastage of Fruits and Vegetables due to Improper Post Harvest handling**

1363. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India of the 21-2-1989 wherein it has been stated that fruits and vegetables worth Rs. 3,000 crores are wasted every year due to improper post harvest handling ;

(b) if so, the quantity of fruits and vegetables wasted during the last three years, year wise and the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what steps have since been taken by Government to avoid such wastage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERRATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No official estimates are available.

(c) A separate Department of Food Processing Industry has been established to encourage food processing. The National Horticulture Board is implementing schemes for reducing post harvest losses. A Central Cold Storage facility with grading and packing facilities has been established by National dairy Development Board under which 135 outlets for distribution of fruits and vegetables in Delhi have been set up.

**Margin of Profit in Determining Prices of Agricultural Produce**

1364. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA :
ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agriculture Price Commission determines the prices of agricultural products keeping a margin of 12% to 15% profit; and

(b) if so, the names of areas and crops where the farmers during the last year have got that much of profit keeping in view the labour of his family members and others, the interest on his investment and other liabilities that he had to incur during the farming period of the crop ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b) With a view to evolve a balanced and intergrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of the producer and the consumer, the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices while recommending the level of procurements minimum support price takes into account not only a comprehensive overview of the entire structure of the economy of a particular commodity but also a number of important factors including cost of production. The price fixed covers not only cost of production